

Esteemed Friend:

The Spring of 1956 may seem a long way off to some people, but those of us who grow Orchids know that 6 months is just a drop in the bucket as time goes, and that the pleasure of watching an orchid grow and develop is just the prelude to a great thrill soon to come. So in offering you some extra large spring and early summer blooming orchids for 1956 I do not feel I am being premature.

CATTLEYA MENDELII is an exquisite orchid from Columbia, South America. The flowers are 6 to 8 inches in size and vary from light to pink with a deep magenta or crimson lobe and a lovely large, fringed and frilly lip. They have been very scarce for the past 5 years, and this is the first time I have had a few to offer. They bloom around Mother's day in May. Each plant is very large and vigorous and can be expected to give you 6 or more flowers. They will do well up North as they like cool weather. Only \$14 for a fine plant.

CATTLEYA GASKELLIANA is to me the "grand-daddy" of all the specie orchids. It is a tremendous grower, very prolific and outproduces some of the best hybrids I have seen in flower production. Each sheath usually produces 3 to 4 flowers, and they will range 6 to 8 inches in size. The color varies from pink to rose purple. The throat is striated with yellow. Originating in Venezuela. They are good Easter-to-June bloomers. They are also known to bloom a second time in the Fall of the year up north, so if you live north of the Mason-Dixon line you may get an extra dividend of flowers! Fine, big, vigorous plants certain to produce 6 or 8 flowers are only \$14. Smaller ones are \$8.50.

CATTLEYA GIGAS was at one time considered the largest flowering orchid in the world as some plants have produced flowers 8 to 10 inches in size! Gigas will do extra good up north as it likes a cool climate and a great deal of light. If you live in a hot, dry area, where your winters and springs are hot do not get a Gigas. They like a winter and spring temperature of around 65 or cooler to initiate their buds. The sepals and petals are rose. The lip is crimson with yellow markings. An exquisite orchid with "eyes" in the throat, which has given it the nickname, "the orchid with the eyes." They bloom during July usually. \$10 each while they last.

CATTLEYA MOSSIAE is probably the most popular orchid in the world for a very simple reason. It blooms chiefly from Easter to Mother's Day. Commerical flower growers begin to force them in November by giving them as much light as possible. They also increase the day and night temperatures by 5 to 10 degrees. This speeds up their growth and brings them into bloom by Easter. The flowers range from 6 to 8 inches in size. They vary from light to deep rose with frilled lip and striated throat. The lip is magenta. Very fragrant. Priced \$8.50 to \$12.00.

The flowers on all the above plants retail for \$5 to \$7.50 in a corsage, which should give you a good idea of the wonderful values offered on this page. All are extra heavy plants and tremendous producers of quality flowers.

SAMUEL L. PRESNER

BOX 4550

CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

WINTER WHITES will begin to get scarce about Mid-October and in most cases will increase sharply in price, so if you want a fine December blooming White Orchid order now! Only \$10 while they last. White orchids by the way are hardier and last longer in bloom than most lavenders! Plants will average 2 flowers or more; (in a corsage the flowers retail up to \$10 each)!

"POT-LUCK" HYBRIDS consists of fine hybrids which originated in the finest orchid establishments of France, England, Holland and Belgium. They have been bred for rich color, vigor, texture of flower, and have a fine heritage of blooming. Some of these will bloom freely on each new growth. Tags have been lost on these so you may get plants worth two and three times what I am asking for them. Only \$10 for one plant, \$28.00 for three, or \$55 for six. You have a good chance of finding something really superb here.

THE PERFECT HOUSE PLANT - THE "NUN" ORCHID

Phauis Grandifolius (The Nun Orchid) requires a well shaded location to grow. For this reason most any home can grow them. Simply place the plant near any window. Plant them in rich soil or peat. Place the pot in a 1" pan of water, and keep the water level up. Water twice a week. The soil should never dry out. They will produce huge 4 to 5 foot spikes of lovely flowers during the late winter and well into spring. The flowers range up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size. Sepals and petals are yellow-brown, the lip is rose-purple bordered with white and the throat is rose purple to yellow brown. Large plants will often remain 3 to 4 months in bloom. Only \$5.80 for a "field grown", heavily rooted plant.

WANTED: A GOOD HOME FOR SOME BABIES!

Available for adoption to some kindly man or woman, a few vigorous Epi-Cattleya Babies.... If you will treat them gently, plant them in rich soil, give them a drink twice a week, place them in a bright sunny location where they will not roast to death in the summer and freeze in the winter they will reward you with hundreds of flowers as they mature. They mature very early in life and these babies will begin to bloom within 4 to 6 months after you get them. They are continuous bloomers and come in nearly 50 assorted colors. 12 of these babies will cost you only \$4 prepaid. Flowers are up to a quarter in size and are produced on sprays in a clustered head. They are perfect orchid-in-shape and come in yellow, orange, red, purple peach, tangerine, wine, white and dozens of other colors. They will grow in any home that has fairly good light, and make an easy house plant to grow anywhere. Try a dozen or two today.

HAWAIIAN VANDA ORCHID CUTTINGS OFFERED:

There are more Vanda Joaquim Orchid flowers sold and used in the United States than any other orchid! Millions of these flowers are flown in from Hawaii to the states every year. The flower is typically lavender in color, up to 3 inches in size. They have a definite growing requirement in order to bloom. First, you must be able to place them near a window where they will get full sun or full light all day (12 hours). Two, you must sprinkle the entire plant at least once a day, preferably twice a day. Three, they must never be exposed to low temperatures in the winter; a low of 58 and a high of 75 or more would be ideal. They grow best in peat moss or osmunda. 12 fine heavily rooted cuttings only \$5 prepaid. Should bloom within 8 months.

UNUSUAL AND BOTANICAL ORCHIDS

Many people are under the impression that all orchids are the large corsage type, and that no other orchid exists. Actually, there are thousands of orchids in all colors, sizes and shapes. Some look like animals, birds, butterflies and insects. I have some whose flowers are no larger than a bean and others whose flowers exceed 8 inches. This page is devoted to the unusual kinds. The flowers may not be commercially valuable but the flowers are lovely, unusual, and interesting. And they could be used in corsages if more of them were known and grown.

DENDROBIUMS: Moschatum, golden yellow, with 2 brown eyes in throat. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " size flower. Huge plants 3 to 4 ft. in size. Flowers are in grape-like clusters. Summer blooming. \$12.50 for big plants.

D. Fimbriatum, golden yellow, 2 brown eyes in throat, frilly, fringed lip. 1" flower. Often blooms twice a year, spring and summer. Good, compact grower on erect canes. Cluster flowers. \$8.50 to \$10 for 2 ft. plants. Somewhat spicy fragrance to the flowers.

D. Densiflorum, GOLDEN yellow, very frilly lip, Big grape like clusters of flowers. $1\frac{1}{4}$ " flower. Lovely foliage. Heavy grower, but not too tall. Spring-Summer. Heavy plants \$12.50. Limited.

D. Peiardi, Long, drooping sprays of flowers that are fuzzy like a pussywillow, in shades of pale blue and lavender with a lime or yellow throat. Exquisite like old lace. Very popular and dramatic when in bloom. Blooms in the late winter, and sometimes right into Easter. Only a dozen plants available. \$5.50 each.

The above dendrobiums came half way around the world via air to me some years ago from India. Replacements will not be made due to the high mortality of bringing in plants from India which ran as high as 90% DOA (dead on arrival).

ONCIDIUMS - EPIDENDRUMS - BRASSIAS - BRASSAVOLAS: Added altogether there must be several thousands different kinds. If you would like a small sample of these, I can supply some at \$4 to \$10 a plant. All are plants or divisions of flowering stock. The more you pay the larger the plant I will send you. Most of these are spray orchids. They will grow well anywhere under average house conditions and need no special growing conditions. You can grow them with cattleyas. They are grown in osmunda. They may also be mounted on driftwood or grown in trees in frost-free areas.

BEGINNER'S ORCHID COLLECTION

If you would like to try one of my "beginner's collections" without the trouble of making the selection, send me \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$200, and I will personally and carefully select plants which I know will grow well for you. Tell me simply what the average day temperature is in your home in the winter, and what it is also at night. Give me some idea of how much light you have. Whether you have any sun or not. And what, if any plants you are now growing in your home under the same conditions. Guided with this I will select plants to bloom at different seasons, in different colors. Remember, you can grow orchids in nearly any home in the U.S. A few kinds may require colder or warmer climates, hence give me some idea of summer and winter temperatures and I will do the rest. I have over 2,500 customers from Alabama to Alaska now growing orchids successfully. Let me help you enjoy this fascinating hobby of kings (and queens) too!

Sincerely,

from _____

address _____

city _____ zone _____ state _____



Samuel L. Presner

BOX 4550

• ORCHIDS •

CORAL GABLES, FLA.

